

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03681 202121Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

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UNCLAS QUITO 3681

FOR COMMERCE/MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A
HSGS: BEXP, EC, ELTN
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ACQUISITION OF RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK AND
REELATED TECHNICAL SERVICES

REF: QUITO A-46, MAY 20 (ENCLOSURE 3-E)

1. REFAIR PROVIDES DETAILED BACKGROUND ON GOE'S PLANS FOR
MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF RAILWAY SYSTEM. IN MEETING
WITH ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ON MAY 20 (SHORTLY AFTER
REFAIR WAS POUCHED), THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL
RAILWAYS SYSTEM (EMPRESA NACIONAL DE FERROCARRILES DEL
ESTADO, LOCATED AT BOLIVAR 435, QUITO), FRANCISCO MERIZALDE,
PROVIDED USEFUL ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THIS PROJECT, AS
FOLLOWS:

2. THE 8-VOLUME STUDY RECENTLY SUBMITTED BY THE FRENCH FIRM
SOFRERAIL RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOE IMMEDIATELY ACQUIRE 20
DIESEL/ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES AND 200 RAILWAY CARS FOR
PASSENGERS AND CARGO. THE GOE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS,
WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS SYSTEM,
HAS DECIDED TO PURSUE THIS RECOMMENDATION. THE GOE PLANS
TO ISSUE TO TENDER WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS--I.E.,
AROUND AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1976--INVITING FIRMS TO SUBMIT
OFFERS FOR SUPPLY OF THE 20 LOCOMOTIVES AND 200 CARS. THE
TENDER MAY ALSO INVITE OFFERS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS SYSTEM.

3. MERIZALDE ASSERTED THAT THE GOE IS PREPARED TO FINANCE THESE PURCHASE OUT OF ITS OWN CURRENT RESOURCES, BUT HOPES TO OBTAIN LOANS FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM THE WORLD BANK, THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND/OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL LENDING ORGANIZATIONS, AND HE INDICATED THAT SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIERS' CREDITS MAY BE CALLED FOR.

4. MERIZALDE SAID HE WOULD KEEP THE E/C COUNSELOR INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THE GOE ARRIVES AT FURTHER DECISIONS ON THIS PROJECT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ABOVE INFORMATION MEANWHILE BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS.
HEMENWAY

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